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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

26 July 1962

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** The Cold War Crisis Weekly Survey and  
the Counterinsurgency Critical List

1. We have considered the problem of how best to provide continuing support for the Special Group (CI) and particularly the question, discussed at last week's Special Group meeting, of the relation between the Cold War Crisis Weekly Survey, and the countries on the Counterinsurgency Critical List. I offer the following thoughts and a suggestion:

a. In point of fact, all of the countries on the counterinsurgency list have been and are closely watched in the process of preparing and coordinating the present weekly publication. Except for [ ] all have appeared in the appropriate section of the Survey at one time or another during its year of publication; and have been carried for varying periods in the Annex when the situation was, or looked as if it might become, actively troublesome.

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b. The most important present problem in several of these counterinsurgency countries is not active or even potential insurgency in the foreseeable future. Rather it is a less dramatic problem of economics or of political and social instability. Warning of a foreseeable insurgent threat in any country is of course part of the function of this publication, but it covers a variety of other kinds of crises as well.

c. There have been and will be long periods when there is little if any change in the standing assessments of the situation in certain of the counterinsurgency countries. If we were bound to a weekly comment, which would appear in our Cold War publication, I fear that we would add much to its bulk and not much to its message. In fact, by a periodic restatement that little or nothing had changed, we would be blunting the reader's interest and risking the loss of it on the very occasion when some important change had occurred, or is foreseen.

2. Accordingly, I suggest that this requirement be met by arrangements for the USIB Cold War Crisis working group to undertake, as a matter of weekly routine, to consider carefully the situation in each of the eleven countries on the counterinsurgency critical list, and that changes in these situations, insurgency or other, present or foreseeable, be assessed in the appropriate section of the Weekly Survey. In cases where there is nothing significant

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

to report, the situation would not be included in the Survey.

3. I believe that this would assure systematic attention to the problem and appropriate estimative treatment of it in the light of current intelligence, and still avoid overloading the published document with boilerplate.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

~~WILLIAM KIST~~  
Chairman

cc: DDCI  
DDI  
Mr. Elder

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- 3 -

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